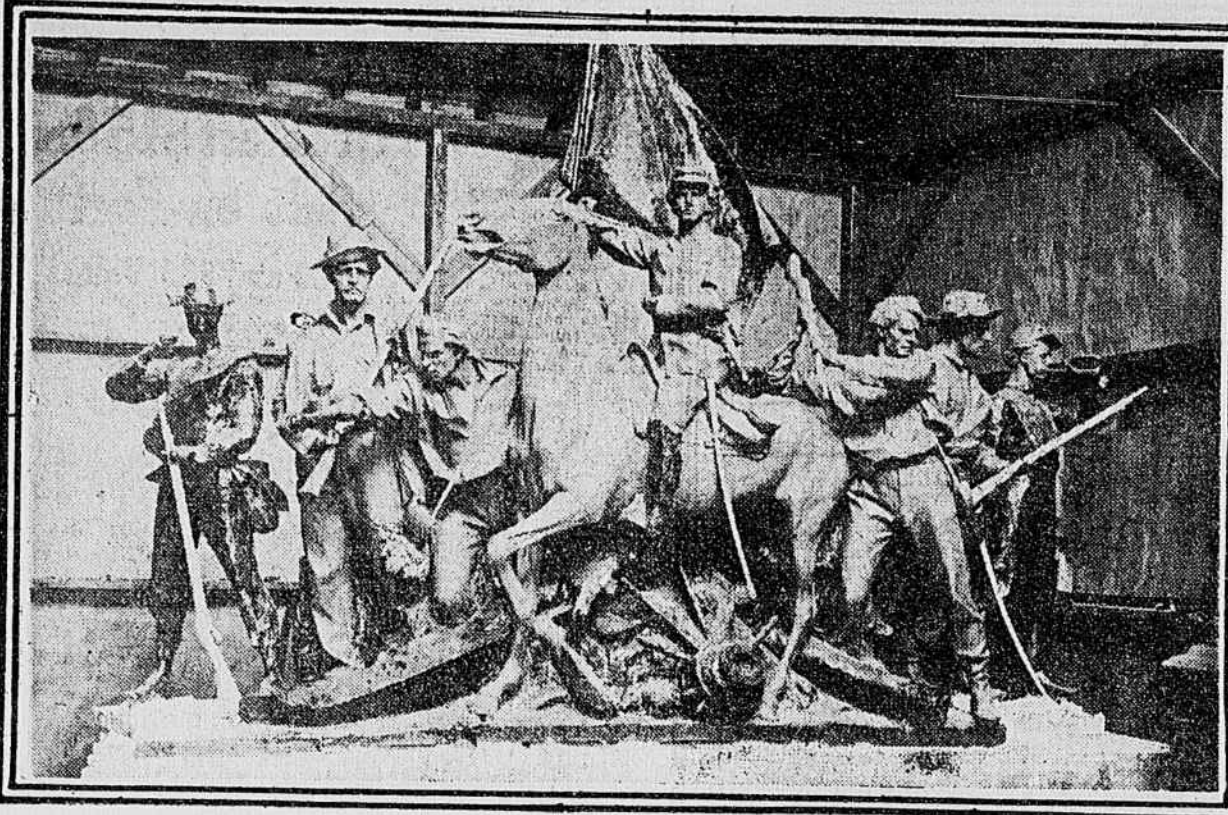
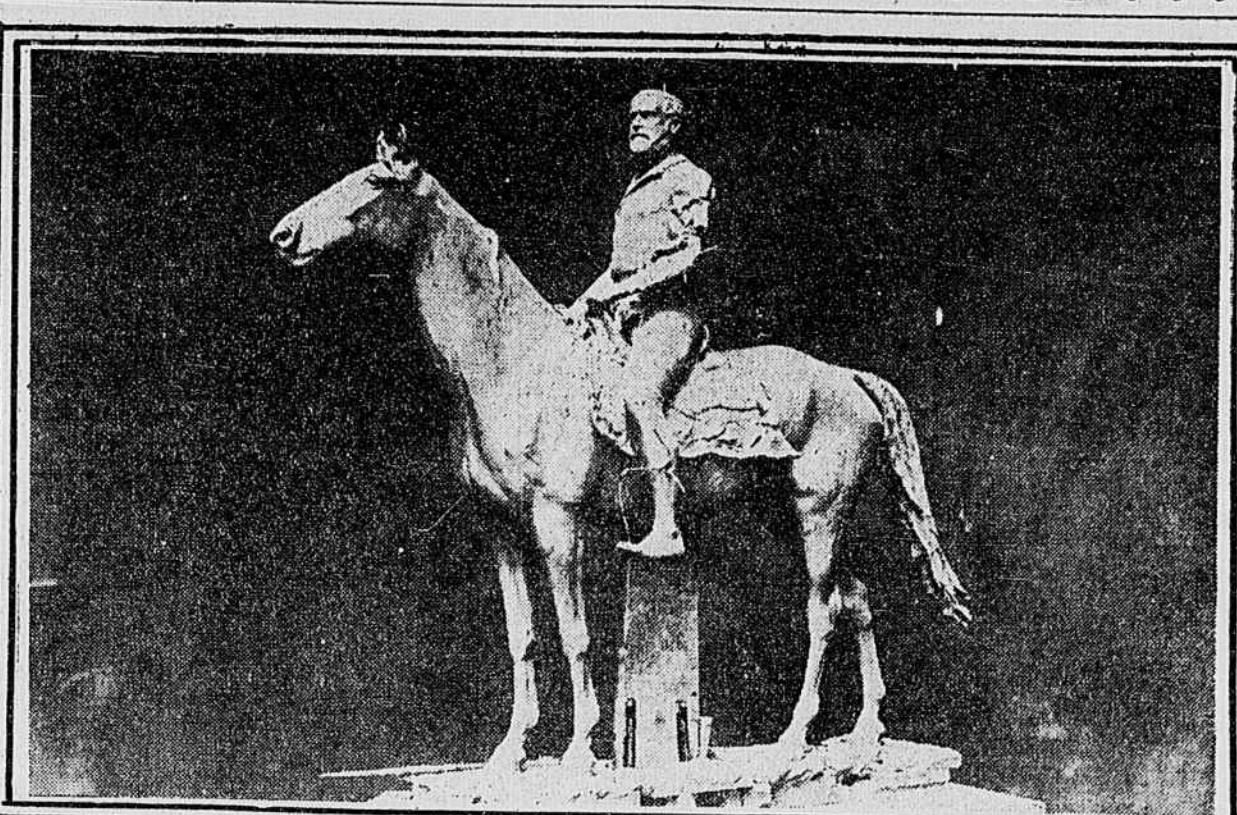


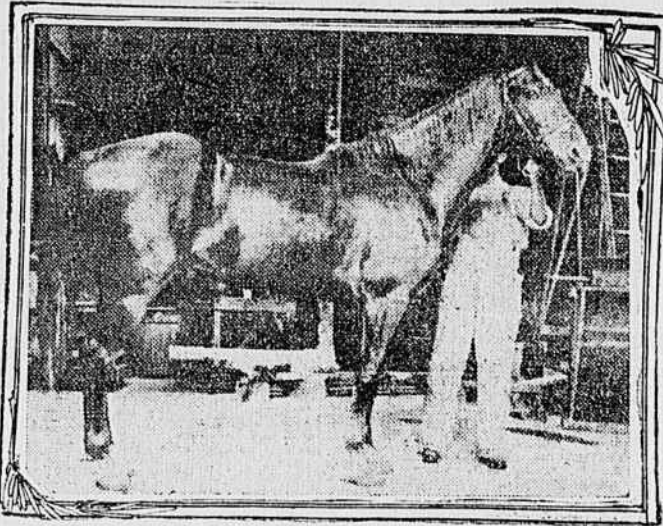
... BUILDING VIRGINIA'S MONUMENT FOR GETTYSBURG ...



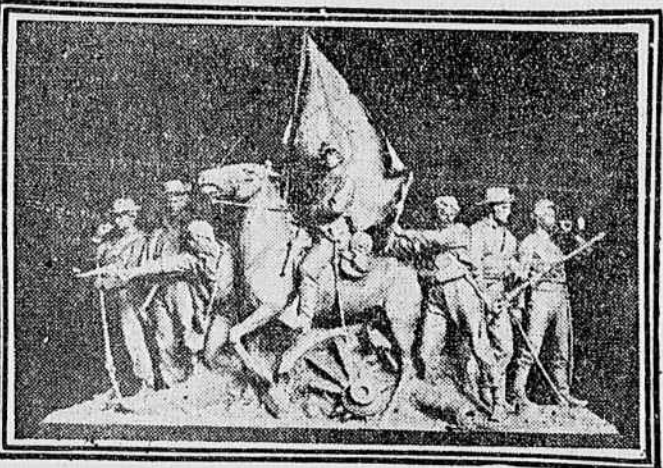
GROUP AROUND BASE AS IT IS TO-DAY.



PRESENT CONDITION OF LEE AND TRAVELER.



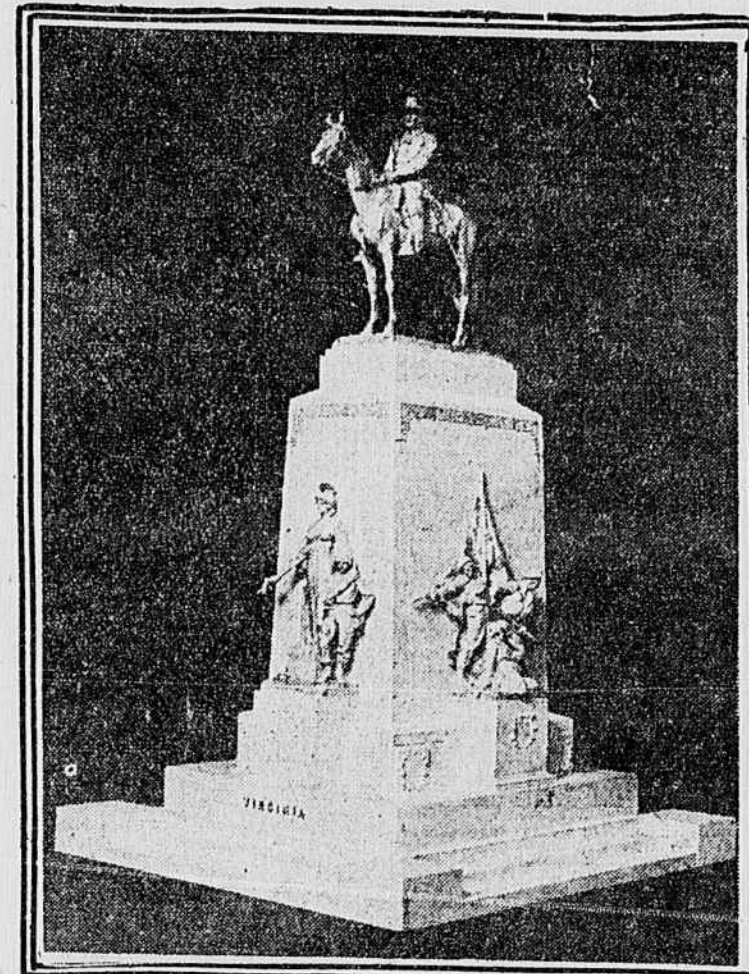
HORSE WHICH POSES FOR TRAVELER.



STUDY OF COMPLETED GROUP.



SKETCH OF COMPLETED STATUE.



ORIGINAL DESIGN, SINCE CHANGED.



F. WILLIAM SIEVERS, the Sculptor.

the cavalryman holding a flag of Virginia appearing in the center. Inasmuch as cavalry did not play such an important part in the Gettysburg field, this man is not represented as in action. However, his horse smells the battle and shows his agitation. To the left is the artilleryman of the group, pistol in hand directed at the enemy which has attacked his piece, canteen swinging with the violence of his movement. Next is an infantryman holding his musket, and at the end is another biting off a paper cartridge. The front figures are nearly done, while those on the outside have just been begun. The bare figure is of plaster coated with shellac to keep out moisture.

To the right of the central figure come first two infantrymen, one of them with his gun in hand ready to club a too obtrusive Federal. On the end is an artillery bugler, his cavalry sabre by his side.

General Lee may be said to have his waistcoat on at present, but to be minus his coat. His legs are still bare. But the features are worked out as perhaps they will be at the last.

Virginia In First. Possibly not many people know that Virginia will lead the van among the Southern States who will place monuments to their heroic dead and no less heroic living on the Gettysburg battlefield. The first monument to be erected in Pennsylvania's contribution has been completed but a short time. Of course, there are hundreds of small monuments and markers to indicate points on the battlefield, and to show where important men fell. And a Maryland regiment has placed a small shaft in the cemetery proper to the memory of a girl who was accidentally killed while caring for Confederate wounded.

But Virginia stands first among the States of the Confederacy in erecting a monument to her soldiers. Georgia has recently begun a move in the same direction, but will follow after.

Commission Named. Led by those who believed that due honor should be paid to the heroism of the men who took part in the turning point of the War Between the States, the Legislature of 1908 passed a bill authorizing the appointment of a commission to select a location, design and inscriptions for a monument "to commemorate the deeds of the Virginia soldiers at Gettysburg." The sum of \$10,000 was appropriated for the purpose of this commission, which was instructed to report progress at the session of 1910.

The commission was first composed as follows: Claude A. Swanson, Governor of Virginia; John W. Daniel, United States Senator; Major H. A. Edmondson, of Halifax; Colonel Thomas Smith of Warrenton, and Captain Stephen P. Read, of Mecklenburg. All these, save the Governor, were Confederate veterans.

On June 20, 1910, as every Virginian knows, Senator Daniel died. He was succeeded on the commission by Colonel William Gordon McCabe, of Richmond. At the expiration of Governor Swanson's term of office, he retired from the commission, and was succeeded by Governor Mann. Now all five are veterans of the war.

Colonel Smith has been especially active in the work. He is secretary of the body.

Visited Battlefield. As soon as practicable the commission traveled to Gettysburg, carefully viewed the battlefields and the hundreds of monuments, and conferred with the Secretary of War. The choice, after consultation, was narrowed down to two possible sites—the Bloody Angle on Cemetery Ridge, where the Virginia troops pierced the Federal lines, and a spot in Spangler's Woods on West Confederate Avenue, where General Robert E. Lee observed the charge of the Virginians up the ridge on July 3, 1863.

An official interview followed between the Gettysburg Monument Commission, the Secretary of War and the commissioners of the National Military Park at Gettysburg. The commissioners stated that they had, since their appointment, permitted the erection of no monument, Federal or Confederate, within the Federal lines on Cemetery Ridge. They said further that they proposed to order those erected before that time to be removed. The Secretary of War thereupon stated that he approved the action of the commissioners, and that he intended to issue a proclamation, with the approval of the President, to carry out this ruling. This precluded the possibility of placing a Virginia structure on the famous ridge.

Good Location. Then followed a unanimous decision in favor of the spot in Spangler's Woods. No one who has seen this site can question its beauty or its appropriate location. It will be placed a little off the splendid government road known as West Confederate Avenue, and will be within full view of the many thousands who go over the battlefield every year.

The site having been secured, the commission advertised for designs and plans. Many were submitted by sculptors, the commission going over them in ignorance of the identity of the bidders. Two general plans were finally accepted from the studio of F. William Sievers, a Southern man, then a resident of New York. One of these two included an equestrian statue of General Lee on the summit of the monument, the other having no statue.

Associated With Lee. When the final selection came, it was determined to include the figure of Lee, mounted on Traveler. In this connection the commission reported as follows to the Legislature of 1910: "The commission is impressed that in the memorial to the Virginia soldiers at Gettysburg, they should be associated with their great commander, and it is submitted that their glory would be most impressively preserved and transmitted in connection with his imperishable fame. Each will be more enduring in their joint perpetuation. The commission, in pursuance of its views, deemed it most effective to surmount the proposed monument with an equestrian figure of General Lee, and they have determined that the design proposed by said artist is the most acceptable proposal of an appropriate conception. We thought this preferable to a merely ideal or allegoric figure. The equestrian statue of General Lee prepared by this artist with some modifications, the commission regarded as an ideal conception."

Group in Action. In addition to the Lee statue, the commission determined to place about the base a group, larger than life, of the arms of the service engaged at Gettysburg. In the center is a cavalryman, mounted on a charger, whose head is unified and whose nostrils are dilated with the excitement of the battle. The rider is a Virginian of superior mold. His face shows refinement as if he served in one of the cavalry commands recruited from among the planters of a county.

The artillerymen are there, and the infantrymen. The heat of the battle is upon every face. Foliage is represented under their feet, with a broken cannon. To one side a bugler sounds his instrument.

This group, sixteen feet long, which will go across the face of the monument and curve around to each side, is in a fair state of advancement. The figures are almost complete, although a great deal of work remains to be done. While one can never tell what varieties of fate may interfere with an artist, it may be said that "if nothing happens" this group will be ready for the cast by February or March of 1912.

Name Commanded. It was also decided by the commission that the Virginia commands in the battle of Gettysburg will be named upon the monument. In collecting these Colonel Joseph V. Bidgood, secretary of Virginia Military Records, Colonel Bidgood, used the records in his office, and sought others wherever he could. He went as far as regimental commanders and staffs and of commanders of separate bodies, such as battalions of artillery. These were published for a month in The Sunday Times-Dispatch, and numerous corrections were received and noted. Then all the material collected was turned over to Colonel Smith. The matter as published is probably too great in extent to permit of its being put on the sides of the monument, and the commission will decide on the matter to be used later on.

In the prosecution of its work, the Gettysburg Monument Commission expended no part of the \$10,000 at its disposal save for the traveling expenses of its members to the battlefield.

Continued the Work. The Legislature of 1910 passed an act continuing the commission in office, approving its recommendations and authorizing the expenditure of money. Tipton D. Jennings, a member of the House from Lynchburg, and a Confederate veteran, was active in securing the passage of the necessary law.

By this enactment "the sum of \$10,000, appropriated by act of March 9, 1908, entitled 'An act to make an appropriation to provide for the erection of a monument on the battlefield of Gettysburg, Pa., to commemorate the services of Virginia troops in the battle on that field' (no part thereof having been expended up to this time), be, and the same is hereby, continued in force, and the said \$10,000 is hereby again appropriated for the purposes set forth in said act, and to carry out the contract between said commission and the artist, F. W. Sievers."

After approving the plans and the contract, the act proceeded: "The said commission having represented that the said monument, according to the design as submitted by them, can be erected and ready for unveiling for a sum not exceeding \$50,000, the further sum of \$40,000 shall be available or subject to the order of said committee for two years from January 15, 1910."

State Committed. This enactment committed the State to the prosecution of the plans for a monument, while limiting the expenditure to \$10,000 until February 15 next. This was done because of the depleted condition of the treasury at the time.

A few weeks ago the commission held a meeting, and with the idea of making the monument more shapely, directed that it be made slightly wider at the bottom and slightly shorter in height. This refers to the shaft proper, for its real height from the ground will not be lessened, since the base will stand on a grass mound.

It will be fully forty feet from the position of the spectator to the top of General Lee's hat.

Let Veterans See. Plans for the unveiling will be made in part by the Legislature at its coming session. It probably will be proposed to take free of charge all survivors in this State of the battle to the scene, so that the ceremonies may be witnessed by them. The cost now would not be a cent, and this will probably be the last opportunity for Virginia to show such courtesy to any considerable number of veterans. The affair, it is argued, should be made one of special interest, since it will be almost of nation-wide interest. The ceremonies, which remain to be planned, will probably be elaborate.

Less than two years ago, when the State of Pennsylvania placed a monument on the battlefield of Cold Harbor, an appropriation was made by the Legislature to bring every survivor to Richmond without cost. Twelve hundred of the veterans took advantage of this opportunity. Many of them had not been to this city since the close of the war.

Probably the great majority of those survivors of the battle of Gettysburg who were from Virginia have not seen the field of the greatest conflict of the war since that time. By the time of the unveiling more than fifty years will have elapsed. It is argued that Virginia can do as well as Pennsylvania did, if she is not so rich.

SCULPTOR F. WILLIAMS SIEVERS was nailing asbestos on the wooden walls of his studio, where the stovepipe was nearest. "I am insured," he said, "but the money would not compensate me."

"For the time you have consumed," commented the Times-Dispatch representative inquiringly.

"For my life," responded the artist, simply.

It is not the time and the material and the measurements and the attention of attendants and the mechanical contrivances that make up a monument such as Mr. Sievers is building for the State of Virginia in his studio near Forest Hill. The northern light and the models and the plaster are incidental necessities. It is the soul of the artist which goes daily into the monument which the State will raise on the battlefield in commemoration of the deeds of valor of her soldiers at Gettysburg.

Task Is Enormous. To those unfamiliar with the immensity of the task, the amount of labor is almost unbelievable. When day after day is spent in moulding a face or a figure, and when it is thrown away in a moment when it is realized that the hidden thought is not there, it seems that no progress at all has been made. When even the number of battalions on a military coat must be carefully considered, when the presence or absence of a muscle in a horse is a matter of the first importance, a detail becomes a triumph or a tragedy.

The Gettysburg monument is under contract to be finished by July, 1912. It will be done by that time. Already the group representing the arms of the service, which is to go around the base, is approaching completion in preliminary form, and will be done, it is expected, before the roses bloom again.

But the delays have been many, and the obstacles would have engulfed many a man. The little plastering cast of General Lee, or Traveler has undergone many metamorphoses. Several of them are scattered about the studio. Some of them were torn to pieces. Detail after detail was carefully worked out and developed and discarded. The sculptor has breathed into this Lee figure his very breath of life. He has lived and talked and walked and eaten and slept with the memories of the Confederate chieftain, to incorporate the very soul into the lifeless plaster. It is not done, and it may be a year before it is ready.

Horse Was Tried. The work is not without its humor. It was necessary to get a horse to pose for the figure of Traveler. Many have been tried and found

wanting. There are many pictures of General Lee's warhorse, but the living flesh is necessary for details of the equine make-up.

One animal missed a chance for glory. For several months during last spring and the early summer, a horse was used which seemed to be about what was wanted. Sundry plastiline figures were made from him.

But he was a little lame, and he showed a general disposition towards unpleasantness. He loafed all day and lived like a king, but indicated that he wasn't satisfied with the job. So he was fired.

The horse now being used is a beautiful animal for which the artist spent \$500. He has some good blood in his veins, and is an aristocrat among horses, as befits one who is thought worthy to pose for a representation of Traveler. He is gentle and has excellent manners. New brooms sweep clean, but so far "Copper" has given satisfaction, and if he continues to stick to his job he may become immortalized in bronze throughout all the ages.

Figures In Nude. Then there is the matter of clothes. It may not be known that all figures in plaster are made first in the nude. "If we put clothes on them in the beginning," says Mr. Sievers, "we would be nowhere." The clothes must be built on afterwards.

So he had a reproduction of General Lee's army coat. No copies of this are allowed to be taken from the Confederate Museum. But for this particular occasion permission was given to have an exact copy made, with the promise that it shall be destroyed when the monument is finished. The uniform is being fitted on the body of General Lee with more care than a tailor ever took. The figures in the group have been treated in the same way. They were startlingly bared to the winter breezes at first, and such tattered clothing as they will have, was added from day to day.

This group is just under Mr. Sievers' northern light. An assistant builds up the insides of the figures with excelsior and plaster and laths, so as to make it solid for the addition of the plastiline.

Seven figures appear in the group,